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BALSAMS





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JANUARY, 1882.

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WHEN WALKING in our fields of flowers in search of objects for a colored plate, we selected the Balsam, and placed about half-a-dozen varieties in the hands of the artists, we expressed the opinion that, if they did justice to the flowers, it would be one of the handsomest plates we had ever given. With the result we are much pleased, and no doubt our readers will be equally gratified.

The Balsam which, in old times, and even now is known as Lady's Slipper, is one of the handsomest and most popular of our annuals. It was introduced into England from the East Indies some three hundred years ago, but its improvement from a single flower to one as double and almost as handsome as a Rose has been most marked within the last fifty years. From the resemblance of the best double flowers to Roses and Camellias, they have been called Rose-flowered and Camellia-flowered, and are so known to the trade; besides, these names have been combined and applied to a style as Camellia Rose Balsams, and the only meaning attached to any of them is of very double flowers.

The flowers of the Balsam sport endlessly, although by close breeding seed is obtained that will produce most of the plants that will bear flowers of a particular color or shade. It is held by gardeners that old Balsam seed produce the best flowers, but we are not aware of any facts

that conclusively show this to be true. A very peculiar circumstance is related to us by a familiar and altogether trustworthy friend. Some seed which we had imported many years ago was left after the season of sale was over, and was laid aside where it was undisturbed for a long time, at least five or six years, and then one spring some of it was delivered to this friend with the information that it was very old seed. He sowed the seed and raised some plants, all of which bore single flowers. The next spring a few chance plants came up from self-sown seed where the plants had been the year before. Six or eight of the chance plants were cared for and cultivated, and all of them produced the best double flowers.

French and German seed-raisers have long been noted for their excellent seed of double Balsams. They take great pains, by careful selection and fertilizing, to raise it in particular colors, and with great success, distinguishing some scores of shades which will come quite true to name. The handsome colored plate in this number shows some fine samples of flowers in shape and colors. The Carnation-striped varieties are remarkably beautiful, although the selfs placed in contrast with each other are not less so. The Double White we have for a number of years produced in much greater perfection than any that can be imported, and



now make a practice of raising all of this kind that our trade demands. A good white Balsam is almost as valuable to the florist as a white Camellia.

Unlike many flowering plants, the Balsam presents for our admiration a handsome, erect form; a well-grown specimen stands like a sturdy little tree, branching from the base to the summit, in shape almost a perfect cone. The semi-transparent stem and the dark, glaucous green leaves are very admirable. When in full flower the plant is like a great bouquet, for it is loaded with bloom on all its branches, presenting an almost unbroken array over its whole surface.

To raise the Balsam in perfection it wants room, a light, rich soil, considerable heat, but at the same time plenty of air. The seeds, which should be sown early in the house, hot-bed, or cold-frame, germinate quickly, and the plants require transplanting soon after they are up. In absence of other facilities, a warm, sheltered spot in the garden may be selected and they will come forward rapidly. When raised in the house in the window, the plants should be first potted off singly into small pots and then shifted into larger ones as they grow. In the hot-bed the pots are not necessary, but transplanting should be practiced the same, removing them to the cold-frame as soon as the weather permits, always giving them as much air as possible, and finally transplanting to the border for the summer. Kept in pots they make handsome window and veranda plants.

As a window-plant, the Balsam is excelled by few, even of costly flowering-plants. A correspondent, of Friday Harbor, Washington Territory, writes us, November 12th, that he had four Balsam plants which grew in the house and that bloomed well during August and September, and when the flowers dropped the plants looked so healthy that he cut the tops back and stripped off every leaf. The result was a new growth of branches and leaves, and now he has the finest Balsam plants he has ever owned, "all budded for bloom a second time."

In countries less favored than our own with bright, sunny days, the Balsam is almost exclusively used as a pot-plant, and if transplanted to the garden, as is sometimes done, a sheltered, sunny location is selected.

## INTERESTING FACTS.

When abroad, last summer, we were much interested in American products that were found in all parts of Europe. Our dried and canned fruits are becoming popular, and with care and honesty in putting up and shipping them, will soon become an important trade. What our people need to learn is the fact that the better the quality the greater the profit, while inferior fruit is often sold at a loss.

A friend with whom we became acquainted last summer, and with whom we had some conversation on the agricultural interests of Europe and America, has kindly sent us some interesting statistics in a supplement of the English *Graphic*, called the "Graphic Agricultural Survey of the World," from which we glean some facts that are interesting to us and, we think, will be equally so to our readers:

In 1881 Great Britain produced eighty million bushels of wheat, the United States four hundred million, France two hundred million, Germany one hundred million, and the Dominion of Canada thirty million.

The average yield of wheat in England, France, Holland, and Belgium is about sixteen bushels per acre; Spain, Portugal, Italy, Russia, and Scandinavia less than fourteen bushels; the United States and Canada about ten bushels.

The best crop of wheat grown in England for many years was in 1878, being ninety-two million bushels, and the worst in 1879, being fifty million; in 1881 about eighty million.

In 1876 England bought of the United States thirty-four million bushels of wheat, forty-two million in 1877, in 1878 about fifty-eight million, and in 1879 and 1880 more than seventy-five million bushels each year. From all other countries England purchased in 1880 only thirty million bushels.

The average size of farms in Great Britain is seventy acres, in the United States one hundred and forty acres, Holland fifty, Belgium fifteen, Russia thirty, Austria forty-five, Italy and Spain fifteen, Sweden fifty.

The United States has more land in pasturage, compared with its tilled land, than any other country in the world, and about as little wood land.



## SMALL PARKS AND SQUARES.

A park, or small square, in the midst of a busy city is like an oasis in a desert. How much freer one breathes there than in the counting-room or the warehouse! How the clerk and shop-girl, as they pass through, straighten up and glance skyward. There may be no rainbow in sight, but the hope-inspired heart rejoices under the influence of the open sky, the free breeze, and the verdure. We do not now refer to such places as Central Park, in New York, or Fairmount Park, in Philadelphia, but to those small places, or squares, to be seen in some of our cities and larger villages. Large parks, when well managed, are worth all they cost, and

crease in size, so that its population numbers upwards of fifteen or twenty thousand, and the ambitious spirit of a city takes possession of it, the value of land increases to that extent that it is considered too costly to devote to ornamental purposes. A liberal expenditure, however, would prove the best economy.

When villages are being established, land-holders donate land for park purposes. In regard to this matter, however, cases are comparatively few where land-holders, in such circumstances as are now being considered, have areas sufficiently broad to allow them to devote portions of their grounds to parks with any pecu-



PARK-LIKE AVENUE.

where they can be maintained, are most worthy subjects for the citizens' pride. However, these large tracts of land, of several hundred acres, can be properly kept up only at a great expense, and, consequently, must be rare. Not so with parks of one to five acres in extent; the annual expense of maintaining them is inconsiderable. By wise prevision of the early inhabitants, many of the towns that have sprung up within the last hundred years in all parts of the country have small plots of ground, secured in central positions, where they are of greatest value. But, with the exception of small villages, these grounds are inadequate. As a rule, when a village begins to in-

niary advantage to themselves; but they often testify their recognition of the value of such places by opening wide streets under the name of parks, and compromising the difference between a street and a park by a strip of grass through the center, or by wide margins of grass between the walks and the roadway, and by planting these spaces with shade trees, making broad avenues, delightful for residences, and for the pedestrian.

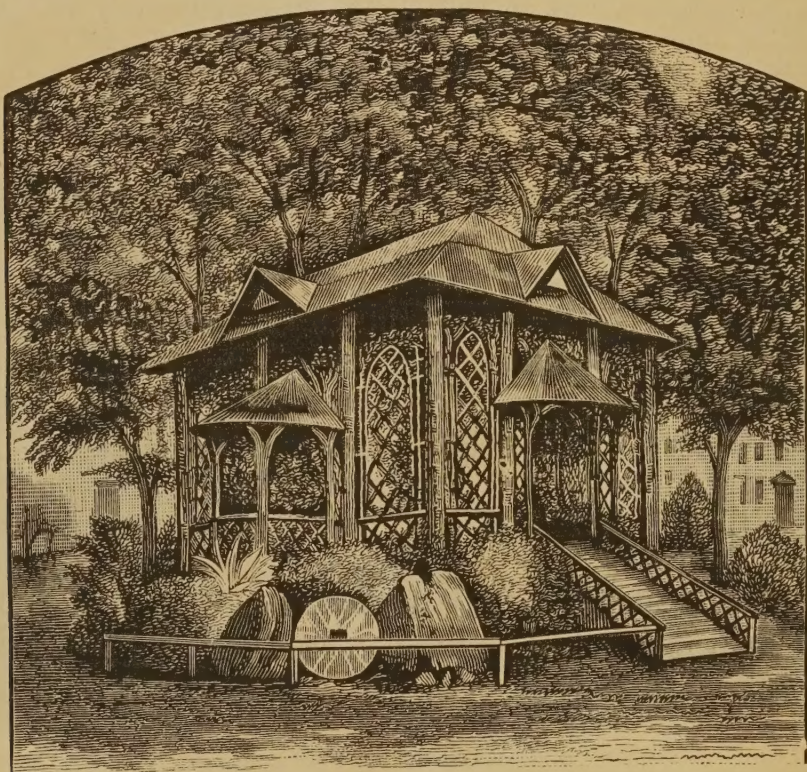
These park-avenues, are, in a sense, private, but open to the public, like any street, and every owner of a lot upon such an avenue feels responsible for the good care of the space in front of his own premises, and, as a general rule, these



park-like streets are kept in the most perfect order, equally as well as the lawns of which they seem to be a part, while many of the little parks trusted to the care of village or city corporations are sadly neglected, often nothing more than waste land or cow-pastures. We have endeavored to show one of these park-like avenues, one with grass on each side near the walk. The grass, if on the side, should not be less than fifteen feet in width. Another advantage of these park-like streets is the fact that usually being main thoroughfares we can enjoy them

a park." It would have taken years of discussion and petitioning to obtain a park, while this matter was arranged at one meeting of those interested, and the work done in a few weeks.

There is, however, a sense of freedom and proprietorship in a public park, and one may walk at his leisure, or may sit, if he prefer, or lie on the grass in the shade, and the children know that they can freely indulge in their sports and romps without danger from passing vehicles, or annoyance to others by their gleesome shouts. In large cities the healthfulness of open



VIEW IN MONUMENTAL PARK.

when walking on business, the ladies when on the way to do their shopping or calling, and the children when going to school, while to visit the park proper requires an hour of leisure. It is often easy to make a street of this kind when it would be impossible to obtain an appropriation for a public square. In a city not far from us the owners of property held a meeting and agreed to widen the street four feet on each side, and plant shade trees in vacant places, and now this avenue, a mile in length, is one of the prettiest in the world. While riding through it with a gentleman on a visit from Germany, he remarked, "With such avenues you need no park; your street is

spaces where the wind can sweep free is unquestioned. Even in sparsely built villages, and where the open country is easily reached, the desire for parks and pleasure grounds is felt, as the fact that they are frequently possessed by such places is sufficient proof, and for all purposes of diversion and recreation they are as serviceable in small places as in larger ones.

In regard to the location of a park the first consideration is, probably, availability or accessibility. Nearness and ease of approach by the greatest number will ensure its popularity and usefulness; but these conditions are not absolute, and should not always govern in deciding



upon a location. Where water may be secured, either as a stream or a pond, its advantage should not be overlooked; so, also, an elevation above the surrounding country may give a peculiar fascination to a piece of ground that no other spot in the vicinity can have; villages can often have choice of location to a far greater extent than cities, but we are obliged to say that, with a few exceptions, the most desirable spots have not been selected.

In compact cities it is not infrequent that a built-up block, or square, that is somewhat dilapidated may be better cleared and turned into an ornamental ground than to remain for scores of years in an unsightly and unprosperous condition. By converting a square, or block, into a park a large amount of adjacent property on each side may become available for business purposes which otherwise would have been so far one side of the main travel of the place as to be comparatively of little use. The new value of the surrounding property may be quite equal to the whole expense of clearing and converting the square. As an illustration of the benefit of an open square to contiguous property in a business place, we refer to a small park in the city of Cleveland, formerly known as the public square but for some years past as Monumental Park. The

square has streets on all sides of it, and it is also intersected at right angles by two streets dividing it into four equal parts. The street running through from west to east, represented in the diagram by A B, is Superior street. Euclid avenue, famous for its handsome residences, starts near the southeast corner of the park, at D. In the early times of the city, Superior street was a principal business street, and it is now occupied by business houses from the center of the town to some distance below the park. If the park had not been opened the space, A B, on this street in the park would undoubtedly

have been used for business purposes on both sides; now, however, by means of the square, twice as much frontage is secured and all the space represented by F C, C D, D E, and E F is devoted to business, and this comparatively cheap property is greatly enhanced in value. Small, triangular blocks of land, caused by the intersection of two streets at an acute angle, as seen in most cities, mere deformities, might profitably be used for little parks.

Monumental Park of Cleveland is not

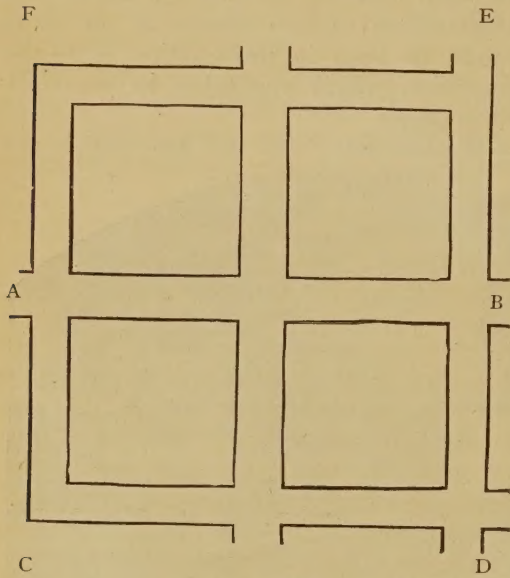


VIEW IN MONUMENTAL PARK.

presented as in all respects a model, as it certainly is not; but it is so highly in contrast with the ordinary village or city square, and so much taste is shown in its arrangement, and so much care exhibited in keeping it, that it is worthy of particular notice, and it may assist us greatly in forming a proper conception of what a small park should be. The four sections of the park are traversed by walks in different ways, and each presents some peculiar feature; the views from different points are greatly varied, and all are beautiful scenes. One section is crossed diagonally by walks from each corner,



and the central part is surrounded by a circular walk, into which the diagonal walks enter. In the middle of the central plat stands a handsome granite monument in commemoration of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry and his famous naval battle on Lake Erie, September 10th, 1813.



A few Elm trees in the interior of this section, and a few others, with some young Maples near the outer lines, constitute the planting of this part. There is a great deal of passing through this section, as it is a near way to reach Euclid avenue and streets leading to the south-eastern part of the city.

Another of these sections, or small squares, contains some good-sized trees of Elms and Maples, under which are comfortable seats where, in summer, many stop for a few moments to rest and enjoy the shade and the beautiful prospect. Here is a rock fountain and a pool with some little streams. The pool, which is of partly irregular form, is bordered with rocks, and in some places the margin shows thrifty aquatic and water-loving plants, and higher up low-growing shrubs. The pool is stocked with gold-fish and is enclosed by a low railing and surrounded by a walk. Plats of grass lie between the walks, having beds here and there near their margins. The stream running from the pool has a pretty fall at a place where its sides are rock-walled, and just below this point is crossed by a handsome bridge. The border of the stream when we saw it last was planted with Cannas and Caladiums.

A third section has some Elms and Maples with seats underneath, with a large fountain in the center and beds of foliage plants in the grass, while the fourth one, besides the shade of the trees, offers to those who would seek retreat from solar rays and human gaze the shelter of a vine-clad summer-house. The grass is well kept, and the walks neat and smooth. The variety in this place is such as to make every part of it interesting, and in warm days of summer its merits are gratefully acknowledged by those who linger within its borders.

Our readers have, probably, now mentally made the contrast between this place and the usual type of village or city square, which is, at most, only a plot of ground of square, or oblong, form, either fenced or not, with some trees large or small, as the case may be, with limbs starting ten to fifteen feet from the ground, and oftener than otherwise planted in straight lines, and frequently so close together as to remind one of a primeval forest. There may be much grass or little, it is never mowed, there is no need to do so, since so few resort there, unless, perchance, the boys tramp a place hard and clear for their play-ground. This picture we believe to be fairly drawn. Are we willing that such public grounds, in their present condition, shall continue to be the exponents of the horticultural taste of the community?

The public square should combine, to as great extent as possible, the best ideas of horticulture; the lawn, the trees, the shrubbery, the arbors, the walks, and the drives, every arrangement and the whole effect should express the best conceptions of one of the most beautiful and ennobling of arts. In this condition it would be a public educator. With such a silent teacher day by day exerting a constant influence the private places all about will begin to remodel and improve, and citizens will be able to point with pride, not only to their public grounds, but to the homes everywhere around.

Why should one or two kinds of Maples and of Elms everywhere suffice for park planting? Is the flora of the country or of the world so poor that this is all we can have? The only thought of those who have formed our public squares appears to have been that of producing thick groves.





### OUR EXPERIMENT.

When we bought the farm and moved into the old house at C——, we thought that we should occupy it but a very short time before the new one would be built; but sickness and extra expenses put off that longed for time, till "hope deferred" almost "made the heart sick." I said "almost," but it did not quite, for we had always made the old rooms as pleasant inside as possible. The sitting-room windows were well shaded in front, where it faced the west, by shrubs and grand old trees; but the sunny, broad south window, though a constant joy in winter, with its vines and blooming plants, was in summer a constant trouble. There were no blinds on the house, and as we intended to build so soon, the "gude mon" did not think it worth while to have them for the old house, and rustling green paper curtains we did not exactly fancy, so we set ourselves to work and achieved two things, viz: a shady place for plants that needed such a situation, and a delightful shade for our window.

We had a frame built on the outside, very much larger than our window, and just the shape of a bay-window. This was so made that it could easily be removed in the autumn. Strong twine passed closely together from nails at the bottom of the frame to those at the top, and thence to the center of the sloping frame that formed the roof. All around the outside of this frame a bed was made about three-fourths of a yard wide, and well enriched, and next the frame-work, to run up the twine, we planted numerous bulbs of Madeira and Cinnamon Vine. The rest of the space was given to foliage and bedding plants. The vines, when once started, grew, and grew like Jack's bean-stalk, and soon enveloped the frame in a grateful shade, and the bedding-plants

did their very best in the way of bloom and beauty.

Sometimes a delicate cinnamon odor would be wafted in at the open window, though I seldom saw the tiny blossoms, and the Madeira was a mass of waving feathery sweetness long before the frost came to spoil all. I need not tell you what a delightful shade we had for our sunny window, or how much we all enjoyed it. In the space enclosed by the frame and sheltered by its grateful shade, I kept such plants as Ferns, Fuchsias, ornamental-leaved Begonias, Achimenes, &c. The window being low and broad, I could easily care for them there, and when I wished to dress up my room on "company occasions" I could bring them into the parlor or sitting-room to decorate bracket, stand, or table, and return them to their leafy bower at night.

The children were in love with this bower, and often wished they had such a place to play in, so we had a similar frame put across both of the south dining-room windows the next year, which being so much larger and longer, gave them a charming place in which to take their little rockers, books, and toys, where they would stay for hours together. Several papers of Morning Glory seeds were planted around this frame; next were planted mixed Petunias, and the outer row was Portulacas. This constituted the children's garden, and very good care they gave it, and every "morning" the "glory" was so wonderful they called me out to see, and with the wealth of Petunias and Portulacas my more stately flowers were sometimes quite thrown in the shade.

The canary hung in his cage beneath the leafy bower, and he seemed to enjoy it as well as did the children. Here they played at visiting, taught school, and



played meeting, and Dick gave them considerable trouble, as he would persist in singing after the rest of the choir had ceased.

At last Jack Frost came, and all the vines were spoiled; but we did not so much care, for we had commenced early, and had all our plants ready for winter. So we had our frames taken away and stored for another season, and now the vines and flowers and bright faces may be seen inside once more, where we will try to have a little summer of our own till the real summer shall come to us again.  
—MAY MACKENZIE.

#### A LETTER FROM GEORGIA.

MR. VICK:—Although I cannot expect my letter to contain much to interest your readers, perhaps if I do not make it very long it may not prove tiresome. The county in which I live (Greene) is not noted for romantic scenery, yet there are a few bits that might tempt an artist to get out his sketch-book and set to work.

About five miles from our little village is a large rock, about one hundred acres in extent. It is called "The Flat Rock." I suppose it is so called because it is not high at any point, although it is not perfectly flat or level. There are a number of small, circular depressions, or basins, some of them ten or twelve feet in diameter. In these water collects, and around the edges of most of them may be seen a border of beautiful moss, having coral-colored blooms. Some of the most shallow of these basins are covered entirely with the moss, and when it is in bloom they look exceedingly pretty. There are small fissures in the rock, also, through which trees have grown, and a good number of the vines of the Yellow Jessamine. In the early spring these vines are covered with the fragrant blossoms, and every year at this time picnic parties resort to the Rock, and a lovelier or more picturesque spot would be hard to find. Near the edges of the Rock small streamlets ripple, and white Violets and other wild flowers are found in their neighborhood.

A short distance from the large rock is a still more picturesque feature, called Annie's Glen. Far down between large rocks, a little stream flows, and the chasm is overshadowed by large trees, which grow on either side. Some legend con-

nected with this glen gave rise to its name, but I am not familiar with it, and hence cannot give it to you.

I think if some of your readers who live in your vicinity could pay our county a visit just now, they would be surprised at the appearance of vegetation. As I write this, November 8th, the trees are as green as in summer, and the weather too warm for fire—too warm even to have doors and windows closed. Last week we had in our house fresh ripe Peaches, presented by a friend who cultivates some late varieties. Flowers bloom out of doors in abundance; Roses, Chrysanthemums, &c., making the gardens quite gay.

I must tell you of a fancy mound which in my aunt's garden attracted much attention during the severe cold of last winter. Having tried different kinds of flowers upon it without succeeding in making it look pretty, my aunt concluded she would try something that would make it green at all times and that would require but little attention. After thinking a little she decided to plant Parsley upon it, as she had a good many strong young plants of a curled variety. Very soon the mound was covered as nicely as she desired, and it was truly a feast to the eyes during the bleak months that followed. Persons would frequently stop to admire the beautiful mound, not guessing that it owed its beauty to something neither choice nor rare; in fact, a garden herb.—S. E.

#### THE GARDENER'S DAUGHTER.

One pleasant autumn evening  
I sat in idle mood,  
And twilight with its shadows  
Was clothing hill and wood.  
When suddenly a vision,  
A vision fair and bright,  
Seemed through the open doorway  
To shed a wondrous light.

I saw a sire advancing  
With loving eye and smile,  
Surrounded by fair maidens  
Of every size and style.  
First to his hand came clinging,  
With modest, downcast face,  
A tiny, fair-haired daughter—  
His Snowdrop, full of grace.

And by her side in beauty  
Came Crocus gayly dressed;  
She smiled, as well contented  
And pleased to look her best.  
Then Hyacinth, so lovely,  
The sire with gentle touch  
Brought forward with her sister,  
Fair Tulip, praised so much.



Narcissus, too, and Jonquil,  
 Anemone so bright,  
 With Daffodil and Scilla,  
 Were brought within the light.  
 Then Violet and Pansy,  
 With faces Oh! so sweet,  
 The father raised caressing,  
 Their joy was now complete.

Now Lily fair and slender,  
 And Rose—of all the queen—  
 And Pæony, and Poppy,  
 Came trimmed with brightest green.  
 Beyond the door were faces  
 In countless multitude.  
 They smiled and nodded gayly,  
 As though our gaze they wooed.

"O, sire!" I cried, "how lovely  
 The children of thy care!"  
 "Ah! yes," sighed he with rapture,  
 "My daughters sweet and fair;  
 But, oh! you should not name them  
 The children of my care,  
 But rather of my pleasure,  
 They make so large a share.

"No grief they bring, no sorrow,  
 No shadow of a pain;  
 But ev'ry glad to-morrow  
 Brings joy with them again."

The maiden smiled and nodded,  
 Assenting with delight,  
 Then slow the vision faded  
 And it was dusky night.

—SIDNEY EMMETT.

#### PAULOWNIA IMPERIALIS.

MR. VICK:—In this latitude there is hardly any tree with more attractive qualities where it has a good chance to display its peculiarities. It has been grown by a few persons only, and was introduced about thirty years ago. The young tree grows rapidly, with wide-



spreading branches, with leaves as large as a lady's parasol, and leaf-stem nearly twenty inches long, making a dense shade. At the age of four or five years

it begins to bloom, and after that it attracts the attention of every passer-by. The flowers grow on spikes about two feet long; flowers trumpet-shaped, exceedingly fragrant, perfuming the air all around; light purple in color, and appear before the leaves, making the tree a perfect bank of purple. And it is among the earliest of spring. The flowers are followed by seed-pods striped like a cotton boll or a guinea-egg, and remain all the rest of the season, swaying with every breeze, and in winter produce a peculiar sound, like rattling of hail. The new flower-buds in the meantime shoot upwards, through the solid canopy of leaves, and are ornamental through the winter. I think it was introduced from China originally.—A. H. B., *Brownsville, Tenn.*

*Paulownia imperialis* was introduced from Japan.

#### THE VARIEGATED WIEGELA.

I think that the cultivation of ornamental shrubs has been very much neglected. By cultivation, I mean giving them a proper soil to develop their beauty, an annual dressing of well-rotted manure or leaf-mold, keeping all grass and weeds away from their stems for at least the space of six inches, and last, but not least, judicious pruning and training. It is a common practice to plant shrubs, and after that to leave them to care for themselves. If the plants are strong and robust they will live and possibly flower for a while, but, if of delicate growth, will soon perish. Even if the plants are of strong constitution, the flowers produced under these circumstances are small, puny, and of little beauty. A shrub four or five feet high in a mass of grass, half dead and half living, is anything but ornamental.

With these few remarks I desire to call attention to one of our most beautiful ornamental shrubs, the Weigela (*Diervilla*) *nana foliis variegata*. This is a perfectly hardy, deciduous shrub, of dwarf, yet robust, habit, growing from five to seven feet high, possessing clearly defined, variegated golden leaves. It stands the sun well, and retains the bright, golden variegation throughout the entire season. The flowers are produced the last week of May or the first of June, according to the season and the situation of the plant. The flowers are rose-colored, of a funnel-



form, and, on well-grown and healthy specimens, are produced in such abundance as to cover the entire plant. To cultivate this charming shrub to perfection it must be given a deep, rich soil and an annual dressing of well-rotted manure. Do not cut back this Weigela so that it will resemble and be about as ornamental as a bundle of sticks, but, as soon as the flowering season is over, cut out all the half-dead and weak shoots, and at the same time cut the plants back. If, during growth, some of the shoots show a tendency to become too rank, pinch them back, so as to keep the plants in shape, but on no account should the plants be cut back or receive a general pruning until the flowering season is over. This variety of Weigela can also be grown as a standard shrub by selecting one of the strongest shoots, fastening it to a stout stake, so as to keep it entirely erect, and to prevent it from being broken off while young. As soon as it reaches the desired height, pinch back the stem and remove all the side shoots, excepting those at the top. As soon as these top shoots are about five inches long, cut them back to three inches, and continue this process for one season. After the second season, the shoots will require to be pinched back occasionally during the season of growth, to keep the plants in proper shape. Care must be taken to remove all the suckers as soon as they are noticed. Propagation is effected by division of the plant, and by cuttings of the half-ripened wood; the latter method producing the strongest and best plants.—C. E. P., *Queens, L. I.*

#### TRITOMAS.

The very last flowers to succumb to frost, and then not until the first of December, were my Tritomas. I had a group of ten or twelve plants in a little bed just on the edge of the shrubbery; and my shrubbery consists of a belt to screen the lawn from the back garden and grounds. They were planted in an irregular line, and while the foliage looked very well in the summer, which was unusually dry, I had about given up all hopes of flowers when, after the fall rains commenced, to my perfect surprise, flower stems shot up as if by magic. All through October and November these sentinels held up their brilliant heads to the admiration of all.—C. G.

#### ROSE OF SHARON.

MR. EDITOR.—It is true, I think, as you have often stated, that as much pleasure is to be derived from cultivating many of our common flowers as those that are more rare and costly. It is equally true that some of our old and common flow-



SINGLE ALTHEA.

ers are as beautiful as flowers can be. There is the Hollyhock, which I had as perfectly double, this season, as any Rose, and as varied in coloring, and as beautiful, but lacking the fragrance of the queen of flowers. I read once in the *MAGAZINE* that our double Balsams were as handsome as Camellia flowers and were used by florists for the same purpose. This seemed a good deal to believe, but I had some in my garden this season that convinced me of its truth.



DOUBLE ALTHEA.

I have a fair collection of ordinary flowering shrubs, and how I wish I could keep the double-flowering Hawthorns healthy, for the flowers are little daisy-like gems. This, I suppose, cannot be, for the leaves blight and the plants suffer more or less every year. I find mulching



and the free use of water is some help, and an English gardener advised me to give the soil a sprinkling of salt, which I did, and not, I think, without some good effect.

In the autumn, I thought the handsomest of all my shrubs was the Rose of Sharon. I have two groups, with five or six plants in each group. The plants in one are all single-flowering, and the other all double. Late in July the flowers began to open, and were not all gone until quite late in the fall. They were of all colors, from the purest white to the darkest purple. The foliage is also very good. The plants are disposed to grow loose and straggling, but a little pruning will correct this. I believe no flowering shrub would give your readers more pleasure. They are known as *Althea frutex*, and also as *Hibiscus Syriacus*, but by whatever name known, they are the most desirable of our flowering shrubs.—E. D.

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#### ROSE GOSSIP.

In forming a collection of Roses the selection of sorts is, of course, a matter of considerable importance, and if not judiciously made will lead to much disappointment. To persons whose acquaintance with Roses in general is somewhat limited, the following notes in regard to a few leading kinds may be of interest. As regards Roses for the garden, mention will be made first of Hybrid Perpetuals, the most numerous and important class.

Amongst the dark and very dark crimson, Prince Camille de Rohan is a very striking, rich, and beautiful flower. Jean Liabaud is a veritable prince in disguise.

Though very ragged and disreputable in appearance in the bud, it is, nevertheless, when in perfection and in the expanded state, a really magnificent flower. The color is a rich, dark crimson, with velvety black shadings, while the flower is very large, full, and well expanded.

Baron de Bonstetten is similar in color to Jean Liabaud, though quite different in form, and is extremely rich and gorgeous. It gives a profusion of flowers in June, but none later.

Duc de Cazes and Jacqueminot are nearly the same in color, and are not so dark as the preceding sorts. The former is a lovely, globular flower, a prolific bloomer and every way desirable. Gen.

Jacqueminot is very large, though not full, and is very brilliant and effective.

Marie Baumann is a very choice sort and should not be overlooked. Though true of all Roses in a general way, yet it is particularly so of this one, that is, it should be well established before it sends out its flowers in full perfection. With the writer the first and second years it gave very fine flowers, but they were nothing in comparison with the size and extreme beauty of form of those produced the third year on the same plant. The display was a perfect revelation, and quite exceeded highest expectations.

General Washington, when first opened, is a Rose of a bright and vivid shade of red, and though a wayward subject, often produces flowers of great perfection. Its continuity of bloom alone should be sufficient to make it desirable.

Alfred Colomb and Charles Lefebvre are two very fine Roses, and produce flowers of great beauty and superb form.

Among lighter colored Roses Comtesse Cecile de Chabillant and Comtesse de Serenye are distinguished for their great beauty. The former, bright pink in color, is a perfect model as regards form, while the latter often gives flowers that, for exquisite beauty, rival the famous La France, though in a totally different style. The two foregoing are absolutely indispensable, as is also La France. This latter is generally considered to possess the highest points of beauty to which a Rose attains. The writer, however, would hesitate between it and Baroness Rothschild before awarding the palm. The latter, though destitute of odor, is a Rose of ravishing loveliness. The extreme purity and delicacy of its color are unsurpassed, as is also the faultless symmetry of its cup-shaped form. It is unique in refined, transfigured beauty, and should not fail to be chosen by every rose-lover.

Eugenie Verdier is another light-colored Rose of great merit. Its distinguishing characteristics are, exquisite form, lovely buds, and great delicacy of color, which latter is silvery-rose.

John Hopper, one of the older Hybrid Perpetuals, is very satisfactory; bright rose, with darker center, and gives quantities of fine, substantial flowers. Madame Knorr is also a good rose-colored flower, with darker center, and blooms throughout the season.



Hippolyte Jamain, deep, vivid rose-color, is symmetrical in form and pleasing.

Madame Boll should not be passed over, as it is a charming Rose, of great substance, and gives beautiful, large, carmine flowers without stint.

Madame Lacharme, though not always to be relied on for well-opened flowers, nevertheless is certain to produce buds of rare and delicate beauty; flesh-colored, with deeper shadings.

Francois Michelon and Marguerite de St. Amand, bright rose-color, possess merits that recommend them highly.

George Prince, dark maroon, and very double, is also a continuous bloomer, consequently of value for that cause alone, though it has other points equally meritorious.

A Rose that may confidently be depended on for flowers throughout the season is the well-known Victor Verdier, and flowers of excellent quality as regards color and form, though scentless.

Maurice Bernardin is a standard sort, and will give satisfaction.

A very lovely dark Rose is Louis Van Houtte, and an exceedingly free bloomer. It is universally admired and should not be left out.

Baronne Prevost, a prolific bloomer, rose-color, and Caroline de Sansal, flesh-color, should be included, as, also, Anna de Diesbach and Abel Grand, both excellent flowers.

This will bring our list to a close for the present. In the foregoing remarks the main object in view has been to point out really beautiful and desirable Roses without holding to a complete description that would include minor defects, such as lack of continuity of bloom in some, taint of mildew in others, want of vigor, &c. Their good qualities far outweigh their short-comings, and, as Roses go, they are among the best, and may be relied on to give as much satisfaction and pleasure as it is possible to attain in amateur Rose growing.—F. LANCE.

**GOLDEN FEVERFEW.**—That beautiful little border plant, the Golden Feverfew, which is so admirable all summer with its yellowish leaves, is still more valuable from the fact that it is almost hardy. Up to December 1st my plants were as good as in midsummer, although we have had some pretty sharp frosts.—B.

## TWO BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS.

MR. VICK:—I am indebted to your good counsel for two most beautiful flowers, that have afforded me the greatest possible pleasure this winter. They are foliage plants, but the leaves are as hand-



BEGONIA LOUIS CRETIAN.

some as flowers, and then they are always present, always beautiful, almost as beautifully colored as the rainbow.

One, and is was entirely new to me, is a Begonia of the Rex family, named Louis



CISSUS DISCOLOR.

Chretien. The old Begonia Rex I always liked, though it is now becoming somewhat common. This new and handsome variety was, therefore, a surprise and a pleasure. The leaves are of a dark,



bronze-like green, beautifully illuminated in the center with a bright, shining purple. The whole leaf has a peculiar velvety appearance.

The other plant which afforded me so much satisfaction was *Cissus discolor*. It is a most elegant climber, and the leaves are of chaste and vivid colors. I am quite sure, however, that it requires more careful treatment and a more uniform, steady heat, and, perhaps, as houses are usually warmed, it would not succeed.—M. J. W.

In the last remark our correspondent is quite correct. The *Cissus* is better adapted to hot-house than to ordinary house culture.

### THE NOVEMBER GARDEN.

I take advantage of a rainy day to chat about the garden in November. A dreary theme, but not necessarily. My garden is quite cheerful in November, but some, I grant you, are dreary enough. Those that depend chiefly on bedding plants for their attractions are doleful looking spots in November, and they are not much more cheerful in spring. I passed one such the other day, and it looked more like a pig's rooting-ground than a flower-garden; the beds were all in disorder, some plants had been taken up, and great holes were left in their places; others had been destroyed by the frost, and stood black and unsightly; the walks were strewn with rubbish, and with the loose earth scattered in lifting the tender plants; heaps of manure were piled about, and that garden is in its winter dress. This is no fancy picture, it is drawn from life. There are others more orderly, but hardly more cheerful.

Now, a garden, to have a pleasant spring and autumn aspect, must be what the Germans call a "grass garden" to begin with. No grass, no spring nor autumn beauty; that is my theory. Then, there must be plenty of hardy things, Holland bulbs for spring, and hardy herbaceous perennials and annuals for late autumn. At the present time, November 6th, my garden is still in very good condition; there are white, red, and yellow *Chrysanthemums*, *Pansies*, *Sweet Alyssum*, *Viscaria*, *Drummond Phlox*, *Lobelia*, *Petunias*, *Catchfly*, and *Marigolds*. The hard-freezing on the night of the third destroyed the *Sweet Peas*, *Nasturtiums*, *Mexican Ageratums*, *Zinnias*, and *Portulaca*; when these frosted plants are removed

the garden will be as good as new, almost. There is a fine growth of green grass all around the beds, and it is always lovely in my eyes. Early in the spring the grass will greet us, and with *Crocuses*, *Pansies*, *Violets*, and *Tulips*, make a feast for the eye and heart weeks before the bedding-plants; but I do not like to see them usurp the whole garden and drive out such old-time favorites as *Sweet William*, *Pinks*, *Daisies*, and *Primroses*.

The modest little *Sweet Alyssum* is very much at home with the *Pansies*; they agree in their tastes and harmonize delightfully together, for you must know that it is not everybody that can get along with the *Pansy* folks, and I am always pleased to find company suited to them.

A word about the sowing of *Sweet Alyssum* seed; sow it early, and late, and in quantity, and here and there about the garden, and some will escape the little black flea that so often devours it as soon as it appears above ground. Sprinkling with road-dust or sifted ashes is a partial remedy for this tiny pest, as it is, also, for aphides, or plant-lice; frequent showering with pure water is also beneficial.

I must not omit to mention *Sweet William*, *Lilium candidum*, *Columbines*, *Canterbury Bells*, *Violets*, and *Pinks*; these all add to the charms of the November garden by their fresh green foliage, so pleasant now that we know winter is at the door. *Strawberry* plants are pretty in November; some wild ones have crept into the edge of the garden, and I like them so well that I intend to give them a little oval bed to themselves among the grass, and see what they will do.—E. A. M.

### REVIEW AND WEATHER NOTES.

MR. VICK:—In the November number of your MAGAZINE "L. C. T." doubts the statement that *Oleander* is poisonous. I cannot prove that it is so, but as "L. C. T." wishes "something fresh" on the subject, I will tell what I do know. We have in our yard a very large bush. Some children were in the yard playing, when one little girl concluded to climb the fence and pick a handful of blossoms. In a very few minutes she was seized with convulsions. Her mother said she had never had such an attack before, and the physician attributed her illness to the poison in the milk which runs from a



broken branch, and also to the very strong odor which the flower emits.

We have no occasion to make house-plants of them, however, as the red Oleander is very hardy and gets to be a good-sized tree, at least fifteen feet in height. The white also endures the winter, although a little more tender than the red variety.

In one of your MAGAZINES I noticed that some one in writing of Persimmons, said they were not good until touched by a pretty sharp frost. Here, we think them not good unless ripe enough to fall of their own accord from the tree. As to frost, it is now the 9th of November, there are no more Persimmons on the trees, and we have not had the slightest white frost even. And we very seldom do until later in the season. To-day we are warm, with all the doors and windows wide open. On the 5th, 6th, and 7th some people thought it cool enough to need a little bit of fire, for the first time this season, to take the chill off.

Our Rose bushes are beginning to look lovely, and . . . Thanksgiving Day the gardens will be one mass of color, unless, as it happens, now and then, we get a cold snap just about that time. Nearly every year there is a little cold weather between Christmas and New Year. Now and then Geraniums live and bloom all winter in the garden, having merely a newspaper or cloth spread over them nights. For three or four years it seems as if the climate had grown colder each year, and last winter was the coldest of all cold winters; snow lasted for four days on the ground, exposed to what little sun there was.—Miss E. E. B., *New Orleans, La.*

#### EARLY CROPS.

Another year's experience in gardening has confirmed the conclusion, long since formed, that the profits of the garden greatly depend on the early crops. Especially is this the case in a season like the past, when the last half was one of continual drought. The early crops, the last season, were the only ones that were fully satisfactory; and of the late crops, or those requiring the whole season to mature, only those that were started promptly, early in the season, came near an average in yield. My practice is to do all the work in the fall that can be done

preparatory for spring. The most favorable opportunities in the fall are improved for spading and plowing and doing any kind of work that can be done to advantage. Repairing frames and sash is done in the cold weather of midwinter. I believe in plenty of sash; good hot-beds and cold-frames well attended to always make a good beginning, and from this a good ending is almost assured.

I have only a little over an acre and a half that I devote to strictly garden crops, including Asparagus and Celery, but I find that it pays me better than the same amount of work on my field crops. I am five miles from a good market, and seldom have any surplus from my garden that I cannot dispose of at a paying price, while very often for the earliest produce there is a good margin of profit.—W. S.

#### A NICE LITTLE BORDER PLANT.

Perhaps those of your readers who live in the neighborhood of large villages and cities where bedding is generally practiced and bedding plants well known, will not need the information that was valuable to me. I had long wanted a low, bright-colored, small-leaved plant for a border, and had tried *Centaureas*, *Coleus*, and other things, but did not find any-



thing suited to my purpose, until seeing your description of the *Alternanthera*, I thought it might be the plant I was in search of, which it proved to be. Its leaves are small and slender, beautifully variegated with green, crimson, and orange-yellow. Indeed, there will be found a great many shades, one mingling into the other. Its principal merit, however, is the compact character of the plant, for it only grew with me about five inches in height, and there remained, needing no clipping, nor pinching, and showing no breaks nor straggling branches. For a compact, neat little border plant it will be hard to beat.—FAR WEST.





### EUROPEAN FLOWERS.

MR. EDITOR:—While it is true that in almost all lands we find Roses and Lilies, and a few other garden flowers, that look like home, it is equally true that in every country the flower gardens are different, so much so that I think I can tell an English, French, German, or American garden as easily as I can tell men and women of these nationalities. The same is true of horticultural exhibitions. The first horticultural show I attended in England I was surprised at the small exhibition of fruit—only a few very fine choice Plums, Peaches, Raspberries, Apples, and Pears, few in number, but admirably displayed, put up with the nicest taste and the dishes garnished with green leaves. There were not so many cut flowers as we see in our exhibitions, but the specimen plants were truly gorgeous. I never saw in America such handsomely trained Fuchsias and Geraniums, almost covered with flowers. The exhibition tents are generally tastefully arranged. A most charming thing I once saw was a grotto, at one end of an exhibition tent, made of rocks, with a little water trickling over them, forming a fernery in which was a very large and handsome collection of Ferns. An interesting feature of many fairs, as we call them, is the prizes offered to school children for success in growing simple flowers, and also Cottagers' prizes, awarded for the growth of flowers and vegetables from the little cottage gardens of laborers.

Once I attended an exhibition where the principal interest was in the display of Onions, and the growers took as much pride in their display as the most enthusiastic florist could in the display of his best Roses. Great skill and care must have been exercised to produce such mammoth specimens.

My friends told me that the *Chrysanthemum* shows in the autumn were among the very best of the season, as were also the exhibitions of Dahlias, but I could not wait for them. Of the Dahlias, I formed a good opinion from the specimens I saw in the grounds of both amateur and professional growers.

I was surprised to find so few *Coleus* and *Ricinus* and *Cannas* used in making beds of foliage plants, and was informed that the weather was not favorable for these plants in most locations.

The scarlet *Tropæolum* is used freely for beds of scarlet. Once I thought I saw a very fine bed of *Phlox Drummondii* at a distance, but found it to be *Clarkias* and *Godetias*. These flowers seem to do much better in England than in America.

*Phlox* and *Portulacas* do not do well, at least I did not see a good bed either in England or on the Continent. They suffer for want of an American sun.

I was pleased to see very fine and old specimens of Cedar of Lebanon and *Auracaria*, or Chili Pine, but the latter was sometimes browned, and I think had suffered during the previous winter. I also observed many elegant specimens of our American Tulip Tree, a really noble tree.

The beds of ornamental-leaved plants were in many of the public grounds truly magnificent, and though some of the papers are ridiculing this system of planting, it will be a long time before it will be abandoned.

I was much interested in the exhibition of different woods in a building at Kew Gardens. Here was displayed wood from every country in the world, in the rough, as sawn from the log, and also polished. Our American Maples, Walnuts, Ash, Chestnut, &c., were conspicuous.—TRAVELER.



### THE EDELWEISS.

The cultivation of the Edelweiss, *Gnaphalium leontopodium*, has, as yet, been seldom attempted in this country. The reputation of this plant has, however, preceded it, and to many of the numerous visitors to Europe that annually leave our shores for Alpine tours its features are familiar. Slowly the fame of the Edelweiss has spread in all directions from its mountain home, until now it promises to become known to most plant-growers and plant-lovers.

The Edelweiss, with its whitish, velvety surface, cannot be called beautiful, and



it probably owes its charm to the fact that it luxuriates most freely in those mountainous regions which other vegetation has nearly deserted, and in those circumstances it appeals not only to the senses, but to the imagination, and we invest it with the moral qualities of purity, bravery, fortitude, and fidelity, to correspond to its physical qualities of hardness and endurance. Its culture has only recently been attempted, but now is becoming somewhat common and quite successful. We saw plants growing in pots, as shown in our engraving. Almost every returning traveler from the mountains brings home a branch of these flowers, and, as they are everlasting, may be kept for several years as a memento of pleasant mountain travel. It is said that in Tyrol and German Switzerland this flower is taken as an emblem of purity and virtue, and every lover offers it to his sweetheart. In some places it is the pride of the bridegroom to gather from the rocks with his own hands the flowers that the bride wears in her wedding dress.

It loves lime and sunshine, and must be exposed to the sun and grown in a limestone soil.

### AN UGLY TOMATO.

"Perhaps," says the *London Garden*, "the most unprofitable pursuit in gardening is that after the *large*, which frequently in the case of a Tomato, means the ugly and inferior. A German house is now offering a huge kind which they claim to be surrounded by excrescences and weighing several pounds. The figure of this looks somewhat like that of a crab with its legs cut off. We trust it may die an early death from neglect." Last summer we visited the gentleman who is sending out this Tomato, but did not see this fruit, but he has kindly sent us some seeds for trial next summer. If the engraving is at all correct it is far too irregular to be of any value in this country. It is named President Garfield.

LOBELIA CARDINALIS IN ENGLAND.—A writer in the *London Gardeners' Chronicle* expresses great pleasure in announcing that the *Lobelia cardinalis* proved hardy with very slight protection. They passed the winter and were much admired. With us they are hardy enough with the temperature below zero.

GARDEN PLEASURE.—The public gardens in the neighborhood of London are a great source of pleasure and profit to the millions of that great city. In one day 62,000 people visited the Royal Gardens at Kew. Lectures to young gardeners are given at this institution two evenings each week.

COLORING VINE LEAVES.—In sending a number of highly-colored vine leaves, a correspondent says: "I have seen the American woods in autumn, and many bright leaves, but never such glorious colors from one species."

FINE AUTUMN.—The autumn in England, like our own, was very fine, and during November the editors of English papers were acknowledging the receipt of Strawberries, Anemones, and Primroses.

CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOWS.—The foreign papers are now half-filled with reports of the autumn Chrysanthemum shows, said to be the best ever made.



## ORCHIDS—GESNERA—PLANTS.

JAMES VICK:—Will you kindly answer the following questions in your MAGAZINE?

1. Can Orchids be grown with common window culture? If so, please mention a few of the best kinds for that purpose, and give a few directions as to their care.

2. How long should a Cyclamen bulb be planted before it begins to grow? I have one planted a month ago that has no sign of a leaf, and I don't know what to do with it.

3. I have a Begonia with a smooth, glossy, bright, green leaf, with the under side reddish, until the leaf is quite old. The stem of the plant instead of growing erect, lies flat on the ground, and when it blooms, the flower stem stands erect, bearing a large cluster of pale pink flowers. Can you give the name of the variety from this description?

4. What kind of a plant is Gesnera zebrina discolor? Is it suitable for the window, and is it a summer or winter bloomer?

5. Is there any pronouncing vocabulary of the names of flowers and plants published? I feel the need of something of the kind so much. Many thanks for the pleasure and profit your MAGAZINE affords. By answering the foregoing questions you will greatly oblige.—A SUBSCRIBER, *Trinidad, Colorado*.

1. With ordinary window-culture it is useless to attempt Orchid growing; but with a large window wholly enclosed, or cut off, from the room of the house, and properly heated and ventilated, some kinds of Orchids could probably be raised. In such a place some of the kinds most adapted to cool house treatment would be preferable; and among these are *Disa grandiflora* and different species of *Epidendrum*, *Lycaste*, *Maxillaria*, *Masdevallia*, *Odontoglossum*, and *Stanhopea*. The principal dealer in these plants in this country is GEORGE SUCH, of South Amboy, N. J.

2. Ordinarily it is expected that Cyclamen bulbs will commence to push their leaves immediately after repotting, watering, and increasing the heat; but if they have been allowed to become quite dry, and have remained so for some time, they will be slow in starting.

3. We cannot name the variety of Begonia.

4. The Gesneras are not good window plants, unless, as in the case of Orchids, a window is enclosed and specially devoted to them and other plants requiring similar treatment. The blooming season of the Gesnera depends entirely on the management of the plants; they can be made to bloom either in summer or winter.

5. *Vick's Flower and Vegetable Garden* contains a pronouncing vocabulary of the names of plants.

## PÆONIA AND DAHLIA.

MR. VICK:—One Pæony, fragrans, planted in the fall of 1880, grew about a foot high, last spring. The foliage looked bright and green, but there were no flowers. One of my neighbors has one five or six years old, that grows beautifully every spring but never blooms. Can you tell me why?

One Dahlia bulb, called Purity, threw up two branches, and on one branch the flowers were pure white, while on the other they were a beautiful lilac. Is not that unusual?—MRS. G. W. E., *Vallejo, Cal.*

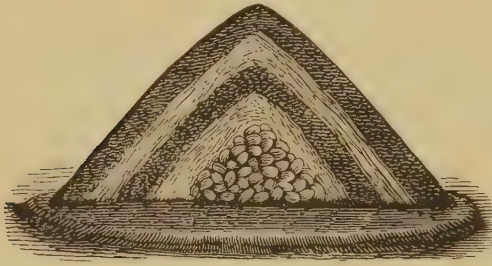
The Pæonia ought not to be expected to bloom the same year it is transplanted; even if it should not bloom the second season it would be as well for the plant. But the one referred to, that is five or six years old, very probably has had too rich a soil. In time it will be apt to bloom, but to hasten it, the soil might be removed up to the tubers for a small distance about the plant and the space filled with some soil that is in great part sand, for the roots to work in. Some varieties are slow in blooming after removal.

The lilac-colored Dahlia on the plant of a white variety was a sport, and is not uncommon among flowering plants that have been subjected for a time to artificial fertilizing and hybridizing. Such cases are considered as reversions to ancestral forms.



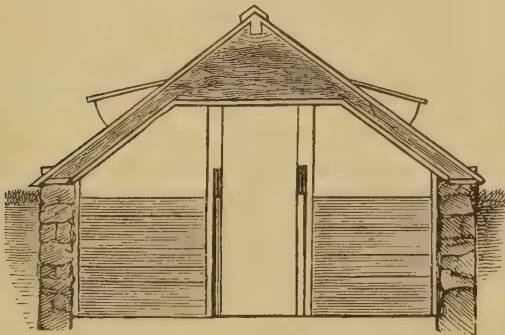
### BURYING POTATOES.

MR. VICK :—Will you give me a little information about burying Potatoes for the winter. Last winter myself and neighbors lost quite a number by frost, for the weather was unusually severe. We put them in piles, threw over them some straw, and covered them with about eighteen inches of earth. The frost passed through our covering and ruined many. It is now pretty late to ask for information, but we have had no cold to harm them yet. Some of my neighbors told me that you saved your Potatoes in cellars. I have only commenced farming and housekeeping and don't like to lose a crop after I have raised it, and, in fact, can't afford to.—S. J.



POTATO HILL.

We bury some Potatoes, in fact, a great many hundreds of bushels, but those treated in that way are principally what we wish to use for seed the next spring. Our plan is to put them in piles rather broad than high, then cover with about a foot of straw, and on this a foot of earth. We put a handful of straw through the earth at the top for ventilation. This is needed at first. We let the pile remain in this way until the winter sets in in earnest, when we cover with another foot of straw and on this put another foot of earth. This completes the work. No ventilation is needed the second time of covering. The little engraving will show the different layers of straw and earth.



POTATO CELLAR.

We also show a section of one of our Potato cellars. They are of stone, like the foundation of a house to about a foot above ground. These we cover with roofing boards, and on them place a foot of straw well packed, and on this another

set of roof-boards, which are shingled in the regular way of house shingling. A passage way is in the center with bins on each side. The bins have moveable partitions, so that the size of either can be enlarged or reduced at pleasure.

### THE CHINESE YAM.

MR. VICK :—I bought three tubers of the Chinese Yam, (*Dioscorea Batatas*,) last spring. I planted them last May, by the side of my front porch. The vine has completely enveloped one post, covering it with foliage of a most beautiful green to a height of twenty feet, which is the height of the roof. It has stood our long, hot summer without a drop of water, has never wilted or drooped, but maintained a healthy growth throughout.

It is splendidly adapted to this climate and has been much admired. I am disappointed, however, in one particular, and puzzled, too. It has never bloomed, but in place of blooms, has put out what appear to be little tubers or seed, at the axils of every leaf. I could have gathered a half peck or more. I send some in different stages of growth. Is this the habit of the vine?—G., *Washington, Ga.*

It is the habit of this plant to make little bulbs at the axils of the leaves, and from these young plants are easily raised, by planting them about an inch deep in light soil. Another year, the plant having acquired strength, it will probably bloom. The flowers are quite small, and of a greenish yellow.

### FALL-BLOOMING SHRUB.

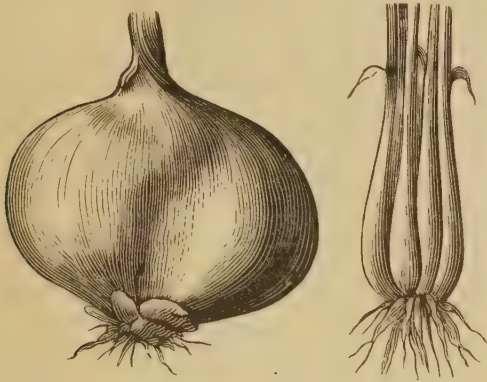
My Flowering Almond bloomed last spring, and again last fall. Will it hurt the plant?—L. M., *Pine Bluff, Ark.*

It is not uncommon for many shrubs and trees to bloom in the fall, especially when copious rains succeed a dry time. In late falls, in this section, we frequently have Cherry and Plum flowers, and many of the early-flowering shrubs, likewise, show a few blooms. If a severe freezing should occur while the plants are in this state the wood would be killed back, but usually the cold weather comes on so gradually as to check the flow of sap before the frosts are heavy, and the plants escape. Plants blooming in the fall will have fewer blooms to expand in spring.

HARDY WHITE VERBENA.—Your correspondent, E. A. M., thinks there is no hardy White Verbena. He is mistaken. I have found it wild in the woods here in Arkansas. It is an excellent bloomer and bears the drought wonderfully. I will send him a plant of it in the spring or now if preferred.—MRS. M. C. DUNHAM, *Van Buren, Ark.*

## SHALLOTS.

Will you please state whether the Onions that I send you are the true Potato Onions, for which I obtained them. They are smaller, and unlike others that I have seen.—W. G.



The Onions received with the above are not Potato Onions, but Shallots. They never become large, like the Potato Onion, and never get much larger than shown in the engraving. They are much prized by some people, who suppose them to have a peculiar and better flavor than any other member of the Onion family, and are therefore chosen for soups and sauces. Their peculiar value in this country, however, is for early spring use. Put the bulbs in the ground in September, in shallow drills, about a foot apart, and the Onions six inches apart in the drills. They will grow a little in the autumn, and divide, somewhat as shown in the illustration. In the early spring growth is very rapid, and in May they will be ready for use. Those intended for seed the next year must remain in the ground to ripen.

## GARDEN NOTES AND INQUIRIES.

MR. VICK:—I saw in your answer to E. M., in the September number of your MAGAZINE, that you thought it rather difficult to grow Cannas in the house. My experience has been to the contrary. I have now, in my husband's study window, a Canna that has two stalks, between six and seven feet high. Some of the largest leaves are twenty inches long, and eight inches wide. I cut down, last week, one stalk, with ripe seeds, that was over eight feet high. My plant has a reddish-purple stalk and scarlet blossoms. I keep it in the house all the year round. When the flowers wither, I cut the stalk down, which is soon replaced by the young shoots. I have it growing in a ten inch pot, with a very large saucer, which is filled with almost boiling water, nearly every day during the winter. The soil is sandy, enriched by hen-manure. I consider the Canna one of the handsomest plants for winter decoration; it has such a tropical appearance.

In the October number, one of your correspondents complained that her rosebuds turn yellow and drop

off. I have found mine do the same, where kept in a warm, dry atmosphere.

I have a *Verbena* with variegated green and white leaves; also a *Petunia*. And I had a Sweet Pea that had some leaves green and white, and some perfectly white. I have raised a number of plants from the *Verbena*, which continues to exhibit similar variegations. Is there any way of accounting for these sports?

Will you be kind enough to tell me what time of the year the Cape Gooseberry blooms, and what the blossoms are like? I have a thrifty plant. I like it for its foliage, even if it will not bloom. I bought it with a Crab Cactus grafted on it, but as some of the leaves grew below the Cactus, and looked so pretty and glossy, I cut the Cactus off and raised it on its own root. My husband and I are greatly pleased with your MAGAZINE.—E. K., *Wolfville, N. S.*

White leaves and variegated white and green leaves indicate degeneracy in a plant. A branch with leaves entirely white is no longer capable of propagation, it is in the last stage of its existence.

The only plant we know by the name, Cape Gooseberry, is what is often called the Strawberry Tomato, *Physalis Alkekengi*. This, however, is a Solanaceous plant, and could not have served as a stock for the Crab-cactus.

## THE TRITOMA.

The flowers are all gone from my garden, save one, and that, on this rainy, windy day, November 12th, is bright as sunshine. The more cold and stormy the weather, save in hard frosts, the brighter this beautiful flower. I take them up and place the roots in the cellar, covered with earth, but let them remain out as long as possible—sometimes too long, if the winter comes on sometimes suddenly, so that I cannot remove them. In that case I cover them with straw and manure, and it is only in very unfavorable winters that I lose any. I do not, however, like to trust them to its mercies.—W. M.

## DOUBLE PINK BOUVARDIA.

A double flowering Pink Bouvardia is announced as having originated with Mr. David Allen, the gardener at Oakley Gardens, near Boston, the grounds of Miss Mary Pratt, whose name has been given to this new variety. The plants are said to be free growing and bear full and perfect trusses, perfectly permanent in color. Apparently, there will soon be in the hands of gardeners good sorts of double Bouvardias in as many colors and shades as of the single ones, now so generally raised and admired.



### THUNBERGIA.

Please tell us how to raise Thunbergia from seed. What kind of soil do they need, and should they be soaked? I am almost in despair to think the things won't come up.—MRS. E. R. O., *South Toledo, Ohio.*



This pretty and useful little climbing plant is easily enough raised from seed, though it germinates slower than many others. Care should be used in planting to insert the seeds with the eyes downward, and then, if kept pretty warm, they will start all the sooner; a piece of coarse brown paper, or some moss, laid on the surface of the soil, will prevent rapid evaporation and assist to maintain a constant moisture. This course patiently pursued will eventually be rewarded by the desired plants, and these will require not more than ordinary skill to rear.

### DAKOTA WILD FLOWERS.

MR. VICK:—I send you a few seeds of wild flowers growing here, that you perhaps may not have seen. They pleased me very much, and as they are perfectly hardy here, exposed to fierce alternations of heat and cold, and flourish where there is no moisture for weeks at a stretch, might be useful for rockeries, etc., in exposed places. The Sensitive plant has a very pretty, pink, globular flower, smelling like honey, or Canada thistles. The Verbena is about the color of pale Heliotrope, blooms continually, and appears to be a hardy perennial, or at least, biennial, blooms first season from seed. The seed I have marked *Petanayutapi*, is so called by the Indians, and means Buffalo Berry. A prettier name might be found for it. Its leaves are radical, of a rich green, the flower pea-like, followed by branches of large berries that are very beautiful. They look like grapes, and when very young make excellent pickles. These berries change from light green to dark, and then redder, and the plant has the appearance of a large green nest, filled with birds' eggs. Fine from June first to August first. There is also a hardy and beautiful *Oxalis* growing wild here. The flowers are not quite as large as the pink. The colors are all shades of rosy lilac. It blooms from May first to

end of June. I have no bulbs just now, but if you think you would like them, I will get some for you. I would like, next year, to make a garden of flowers that I have never seen before, but fear there is nothing that will make such a perpetual show as Phlox, Petunia and Verbena. The climate here is usually dry, hot and windy in summer.—Miss A. E. W., *Greenwood, D. T.*

The Sensitive plant mentioned is called *Schrankia uncinata*, common at the west and southwest.

The Verbena alluded to is very likely to be what is known in the catalogues as *V. Montana*, but properly *V. bipinnatifida*, Nutt. Several species of Verbena are natives of the western Territories.

The plant known as Buffalo Berry among botanists is *Shepherdia argentea*, N. It is a small tree growing from twelve to eighteen feet in height; but the plant above described is something quite different, and we can form no conjecture in regard to it.

### LILY—TUBEROSES.

I have a Lily which threw up nine or ten flower stems, and had one hundred thirty-two flowers, each one opening only for a day. The color was orange. Two of my three-year-old Tuberoses, (my own raising,) bloomed, and handsomer flowers I think I have never seen, both in regard to size and perfectness. I had bought a half dozen bulbs here, all of which bloomed, but the flowers were not nearly so large. One of the bulbs threw out two stems, and the flowers of each came to perfection, with the exception of a few top ones, which were scorched by the heat. Most of my friends seemed to think I must have two bulbs in the pot, but after taking it out, I examined it closely and found that both came from the same bulb. I would like to know whether that is a common occurrence. I have never heard of it before, but then, my experience is somewhat limited.—Mrs. M. H. S., *Lancaster, Pa.*

Tuberoses with two flower-spikes are not common; still, they occur frequently enough, where large quantities are raised, to lose their novelty. It is sometimes difficult to decide whether in such cases both spikes are borne by one bulb, or whether the bulb is really double in single disguise.

PROFITABLE PEACHES.—Peach growers on the Hudson, in Orange and Ulster counties, are planting extensively of the following varieties: Salway, Dillon, Stevenson, Billyou's or Billyeau's Late, and the Brandywine. They are late varieties and have been proved the most profitable. The Mountain Rose, Oldmixon, Stump of the World, Crawford's Late and Keyport's White are also regarded as profitable sorts.

### GERMINATING SEEDS.

MR. VICK:—Many years ago, I was engaged, to a very small extent, in plant growing, just for the love of it, and I found it was very difficult to start or germinate some seeds. Some were in the ground from three to four weeks before they would show signs of life. I remembered that I had learned, when I went to school, that heat would penetrate through dark colors, and that white or light ones would reflect it. With that idea, I cut up some old, black woolen cloth and spread it over the seeds which I had sowed in my cold frame, (not hot-bed,) and watered, with a fine syringe, the cloth every day, or as often as I noticed that the cloth became dry, sometimes two and three times a day; and, would you believe it, those seeds, which before that would not start for weeks, germinated in three or four days. Of course, I had my sash on the frame. The cloth must be lifted every day, at one corner or end, to ascertain whether the seeds have germinated. As soon as that is the case, the cloth should be taken off, or the plants would be spindle shanked.—W. B. S., Reading, Pa.

This method of starting seeds is a good one, and is substantially the same as covering with a paper, as has frequently been recommended in our pages. It is very probable that the black color is favorable in transmitting the heat of the sun, but the principal advantage, whatever material may be employed for covering, is the prevention of evaporation from the surface of the soil, thus preserving an even, steady moisture.

### VARIOUS INQUIRIES.

Mrs. J. B. M. enquires about the seeding of the Oleander. It seldom seeds at the North, but further south it is not at all uncommon.

In reply to Mrs. O. H. Y., of Williamsport, Pa., we will say the *Yucca aloifolia* is not hardy at the North. It must be treated as a greenhouse plant.

A Cactus of a large scarlet variety is reported, by Mrs. E. G. W., as maturing seed, and she inquires if it is common for the Cactus to produce seeds. It certainly is whenever the conditions are favorable.

In reply to the question of CARRIE D., we will say that the Jasmines are readily propagated in hot-beds and hot-houses, where bottom heat is applied. In the favorable conditions existing in such places the cuttings are rooted without difficulty, but with ordinary window appliances they are very slow to root.

P. F. Y. enquires whether Hyacinths will grow best in water or soil. They will bloom very finely with their roots in water, perhaps, when properly managed, as well as in soil; but there is a far

greater exhaustion of the bulb when in water, and it is worthless afterwards.

"One of the readers" enquires the name of a Fern, and says "it is infected with scale lice. Is there any way to get rid of them?" The Fern, of which a specimen was sent, is *Nephrolepis exaltata*. The scale-lice on it may be destroyed by touching them with alcohol on the point of a camel-hair brush. The same writer enquires "the best season to trim a hedge of English Hawthorn." The best time is early in spring, before the buds swell.

### OUR GLADIOLUS PLATE.

In the December number of the MAGAZINE we gave a very handsome plate of six varieties of Gladiolus, selecting those of good form, and embracing as great a variety of colors as possible. They were designed as representatives of the best classes rather than individual portraits. Some of our friends, however, are very anxious to know the names, so we state that the yellowish variety seen at the top and bottom of the plate is Nestor; the upper one on the right, La Poussin; the purple one at the bottom, Addison; the marked variety on the left, Astree; next below, Ambroise Verschaffelt; in the center, Queen Victoria.

### A TRIPLET DAHLIA.

MR. VICK:—Sometime ago you published an article that I sent you about a Siamese-Twins Dahlia, or two-headed one, in the Manse garden here. Well, last Summer, in the same place, there was a triplet, or—if you like—you may call it a Cerberus one, on account of the number of its heads. At the top of the central stalk were three flowers as close together as possible. When they were all in full bloom they formed a large ball. They were, of course, one of the curiosities shown visitors to the Manse. I may say that the Dahlia referred to was a yellow one.—T. F., *Mitis, Que.*

IOWA WEATHER SERVICE.—We are indebted to GUSTAVUS HENRICKS, director of the Iowa weather service, for copies of the Monthly Bulletins for 1881, invaluable documents to our western friends and interesting to all. The doctor is doing excellent work and his labors are appreciated.



### THE MARIGOLD.

I have had several pretty beds in my garden this summer, but none pleased me more than one filled with the Striped French Marigold. Part of this pleasure, no doubt, must be attributed to the fact that it was a surprise to me. I had looked upon the Marigolds as coarse and undesirable flowers, but as a friend who was with me when I ordered seed in the



spring had a good word to say for them, I made a bed where it would not be conspicuous, not expecting much, but with the fine-cut, dark foliage and gay orange and yellow and brownish flowers standing above and among the foliage, I had to own to a very agreeable disappointment.

Perhaps there are others like myself who are ignorant of the value of this flower and would like to be agreeably disappointed.—ELLEN.

ENDURING BULBS.—Mr. HAZEN writes: "I have bulbs in my old home in Alabama you sent me fourteen years ago. They have flowered well every year since."

### THE PEACH TREE YELLOWS.

An account of a continued investigation for three years, by W. K. HIGLEY, of the appearances of Peach trees affected by the yellows, and a scientific inquiry of the cause, has lately been published in the pages of that valuable journal, the *American Naturalist*. It is stated that the first record of the Peach yellows is found in the *Genesee Farmer*, and was published about forty-five years ago.

In his inquiries, Mr. H. has considered the various theories that have been put forth in regard to this disease, and in his article shows the failure of all of them to account for it, and also the failure of the various methods of treatment that have been recommended, either as remedial or preventive.

But the positive result attained is the demonstration, that the diseased trees are infested by a peculiar fungus. Two illustrations are given, showing the mode of growth and the fruiting habit of the fungus. The parasite was found in the forming layer of wood just beneath the bark, but not in the bark; it was present in the trunk or main stem of the tree, and in the branches, in the leaves and in the fruit "just beneath the skin, extending into the fleshy parenchyma a short distance."

Two paragraphs here quoted give the substance of the practical conclusions arrived at: "I am quite positive that if the orchard is kept in the proper state of cultivation it will not be as apt to contract the disease, although I cannot say that this is a preventive, in the face of all the evidence to the contrary. It is a well known fact, however, that if the digestive, circulatory, and respiratory organs in man are in their proper state there is not as much danger of the body contracting disease. I believe that this is, to a great extent, also characteristic of the vegetable kingdom. Thus, the right food and care, or, in plain words, the right cultivation, fertilization, and pruning may, to a great extent, aid the pomologist in his warfare against the yellows. On the other hand, lack of care in cultivation,

etc., may reduce the tree to such a condition that it becomes susceptible to disease, and is more liable than in the first case to catch this troublesome malady." This corresponds to Mr. DOWNING's view of the case.

As to a cure, Mr. K. says: "From my work and observation, and from, I think, a scientific standpoint, letting theories alone, the only cure that I can recommend is that the fruit-grower, when he notices that any tree in his orchard has become diseased, root it out carefully and burn every part. If each one takes this care, and is also careful to keep the orchard up to the standard cultivation, this malady, which is troubling our orchardists to such an extent at present, will surely fall and soon become a thing of the past."

#### A NEW NATIVE PRIMROSE.

The Primrose, which is so deservedly a favorite in British and European gardens, does not take well to the climate on this side of the Atlantic. It is cultivated more or less, and in some places and some seasons it produces fair blooms, but it never revels in luxuriance here as it does in the British islands. The cause of this is the extreme Summer heat. It is an Alpine plant, and loves a cool, moist soil and a cool temperature. The species of *Primula*, native of this country, are, similarly, inhabitants of cool localities and have afforded little ground for hope that from them, by selection of seedlings or by hybriding, a new strain of florists' flowers might be produced that would take more kindly to cultivation under our hot suns.

About the year 1860 a species of *Primula* was discovered in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado which was of far greater beauty than any others of this country hitherto known. This was *Primula Parryi*. But the region where it was found, which was near the snow line, forbade any hope that it might be cultivated with success, under ordinary conditions, either in the Mississippi Valley or eastward. The same species was afterwards found in several places in Nevada, but always at high elevations where it was constantly moist and cool. Dr. Hooker wrote that this was "the handsomest Primrose ever introduced" into England, "except, perhaps, the *P. Japonica*." Apparently we ought not to look for any hardy *Primula*

to thrive in our gardens; but just now another chance appears in the fact of a recent discovery of a new species in New Mexico.

Mr. Edward M. Greene, who made a botanical tour in New Mexico last Summer, sends a description of the newly discovered plant to the "Torrey Botanical Club," and in the November number of the monthly "Bulletin" it is published. It was found on rich, moist slopes, near the summits of the Mongollen Mountains. "Collected by H. H. Rusby, whose zealous labors, amid so many dangers and difficulties as attend all botanizing in that field, are now crowned by the discovery of so splendid a species as rarely falls to the lot of any botanist now to find. Since the discovery of *Primula Parryi* of the Colorado Mountains that superb species has held an unquestioned title to the first rank, in point of beauty, among American species of this elegant genus. In *P. Rusbyi* it has a formidable rival. This plant, while having corollas fully as large, and as richly colored, has a more slender and graceful habit; moreover, its calyces and pedicels, so conspicuously white-farinose, contribute much to its beauty. Being indigenous to both a lower latitude and a less altitude than *P. Parryi*, it would doubtless be brought much more easily into cultivation, where it could not fail to take rank among the most admirable members of this favorite family." We would rejoice if this bright anticipation might be realized, but our fears counsel us in regard to it.

THE NEW GAILLARDIA.—A writer in *The Garden* says the new *Gaillardia*, *G. picta Lorenziana*, is "altogether transformed from the ordinary form of the old *Gaillardia picta*, the outer or ray petals having entirely disappeared, and the usually flat center being developed into a perfectly spherical mass of distinct florets, apparently one of the most remarkable metamorphoses that has ever been effected in a simple flower by the horticulturist or hybridist."

PÆONIA POTTSII.—A lady in Iowa writes: "I do not think you give *Pæonia Pottsii* the prominence it merits. Of all my *Pæonies*, seven in number, that is the finest. Such a rich, dark, velvety bloom I have never before seen."



## GERANIUMS FOR WINTER.

The only way that any satisfactory results can be obtained in blooming Geraniums in the early winter is to make special preparation for it. The plants should be raised and grown in reference to this purpose. Cuttings made in April and May will be early enough; the plants can be grown in pots through the season, or, when strong enough, can have a place in the border until the first of September, and then be lifted and potted. Attention should be given the plants as they are growing to secure a strong, branchy framework. This result can be attained by pinching off the ends of the shoots, thus forcing the lateral buds to break into growth; by the same operation the flower buds are removed or prevented from forming. When the plants are ready to be removed to the house they will be strong and vigorous and furnished with growing points all over their surface, and they can then be allowed to make their growth unrestrained, unless a shoot or two should exhibit a decided tendency to take a lead of all the others, when they should be checked. The plants in the house need all the light they can have and should be placed near the glass, and to flower well the temperature at night should not fall much below 55° and in the daytime be about 65°, or rising to 70° at midday with a bright sun. Air should be given freely to prevent the plants becoming drawn. Water should be given as the plants demand it, care being taken to keep the soil from being constantly saturated. This is the general treatment, and if observed one need not fail of having good blooming plants in winter. Something is to be gained by a proper selection of varieties, and the following named kinds may be relied on as specially valuable for winter:

Jean Sisley, a scarlet flower with a white eye.

General Grant, a clear bright scarlet.

Master Christine, a dwarfish plant but producing freely very fine pink flowers.

Mrs. James Vick, flower with white edges and a pink center, blooming abundantly in winter.

New Life is a good winter bloomer and its striped flowers make it a conspicuous and attractive object.

Queen of the West is a good light scarlet.

Vesuvius is a free blooming sort, the

plant of low growth; color, a fiery scarlet.

Wood Nymph is a clear pink, very handsome.

Snow Flake and White Tom Thumb are the best varieties with white flowers.

Although the single flowered varieties are far superior to the double ones for winter blooming, still some of the double ones do well, and of these the best are—

Asa Gray, a fine salmon.

Bishop Wood, scarlet with violet shade.

Candidissima Plena and Alba Perfecta and Madame Amelia Baltet are the best white ones.

Ernest Lauth is a glowing crimson or scarlet, according to the manner the light falls on it.

J. C. Rodbard is brilliant red with the upper petals showing a shade of purple.

Madame Thibaut has very large flowers of a deep rosy pink, with the upper petals marked with white.

All of the above have been well tried and may be relied upon as suitable kinds for window and greenhouse culture for winter flowers.

## THE TIGER FLOWER.

One of the most interesting little flowers I cultivated is the Tiger Flower, sometimes called the Shell Flower. Several years ago I obtained a few bulbs of two kinds—*Tigridia conchiflora*, yellow spotted with black, and *T. pavonia*, red spotted with black. The name Tiger,



I presume comes from its large tiger-like spots, and Shell flower from its curious form, something like a shell, and some four inches across, with the center sunk. The flowers last but for a day, but the number given by a few plants is surprising. The flowers are up on a stem five to six inches in height. I put the bulbs in the ground when the weather becomes

warm, about the middle of May, and they flower all through the summer. Before hard frosts take them up, dry them for a few days and store them away in a drawer out of the way of frost. I found they keep better if covered with sand.—L. W.

### EVER-BLOOMING ROSES.

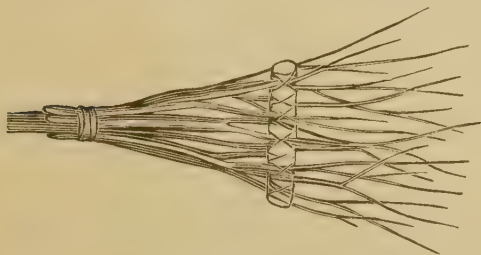
MR. VICK:—I noticed a question in your MAGAZINE asked whether Ever-blooming Roses would live out in our climate over winter. The answer, if I remember rightly, was that a slight protection is necessary.

Last fall I set out some Hybrid Perpetuals and some Ever-blooming Roses, and gave them no protection whatever. In the spring I found a few of the tops dead for a few inches down, and I cut them down below that and all of the plants came on nicely, and all of them have flowered freely the past summer, for all that it has been so very dry here. I think the names of the Ever-blooming Roses that I had out over last winter, were the Laurette, Mad. Azelie Imbert, Mad. Camille and Narcisse. I have bought other Ever-blooming Roses this summer, and I am not going to give them any protection the coming winter.—W. H. B., *New Haven, Conn.*

North of the latitude of Philadelphia it will be found unsafe to leave Monthly Roses unprotected during winter, though some kinds will sometimes pass through unharmed. Some of the Bourbons have been found more hardy than any of the Teas or Noisettes, and often winter without protection, but safety is ensured only by some kind of protection, such as that afforded by soil, straw, leaves, saw-dust, evergreen boughs, brakes, or other non-conducting material.

### SWEEPING THE LAWN.

In the fall of the year, when the lawns are constantly littered by leaves, they can be most easily kept in tidy condition, day by day, by use of a besom made of a few tough twigs securely tied to a long handle with a short cross-piece at the end. Only



LAWN BESOM.

a few twigs need be used, and the broom will be correspondingly light. A man walks along brushing the besom on the ground as far as he can swing it each way, sweeping the leaves into a winrow

on each side. Quite a breadth of lawn may be passed over in a short time, and then the leaves can be carted away. For



METHOD OF USING.

two or three weeks in autumn it is necessary to brush up every day or two at least, and this method will be found very much quicker than raking, as commonly practiced.

### APPLES FAR NORTH.

A valuable work has been performed by Dr. T. H. HOSKINS, of Maine, in 45° north latitude, and at an elevation of 750 feet above the sea. He has tested over 250 varieties of apples during the last fifteen years. The great mass of the most valuable sorts in cultivation are classed by him either as "the tender" or "almost hardy," while the few that are "hardy and good" are very few. Without mentioning some kinds that are desirable for the amateur, but which are not profitable for general culture, he names as 'the best of those which add productiveness and general thrift' to hardiness and quality: Tetofsky, Yellow Transparent, Duchess of Oldenburgh, Wealthy, Magog Red Streak and Scott's Winter. He remarks, "in my orchard of 1,400 trees, the Wealthy and Scott head the list—400 of each."

KEROSENE AND THE POTATO BUG.—At the November meeting of the Horticultural Society of Montgomery County, Ohio, Mr. Ewing stated that he had used kerosene oil successfully in the destruction of potato bugs; he used one-tenth kerosene and nine-tenths water. And the speaker thought a much smaller quantity of oil would be effectual, as, no doubt, it would. It is best to first mix the oil with milk and then dilute the mixture.





## OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

### THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN.

MR. EDITOR:—I wish to tell you something about myself and what, with your consent, I propose to do. I am not a young man, that is, not very young, for I should have arrived at years of discretion some time ago. Do not, however, think I am a bald-headed old man walking with a stick, and bent over like a bow, for that is not so. I have plenty of hair, and it is only nicely silvered, and I can walk as erect as a drum-major. When I was a boy I loved flowers and spent all the pennies I could get in buying seeds and plants, and spent some of my play-time in collecting manure, from neighbors who kept chickens, paying sometimes little sums for the privilege of cleaning up the roosting places.

Now I am a grandfather, with a good many grandchildren around me, and I have loved and cultivated flowers from my youth up, so you may think I have learned something about them. I want these children to grow flowers and like them, and I am quite sure they will, for we spend many hours together in the garden summer days, where we work and talk together, but the little ones do most of the work, and sometimes a good share of the talking.

In this way we get along very nicely, but I have some little grandchildren far away, and I have to write them all that we do and some things that we talk about, and answer questions about how to prepare the ground, how deep to sow different kinds of seed, what kinds will keep in bloom the longest, which are the tallest and sweetest, and handsomest. Indeed, they ask questions sometimes that it would take a wiser head than mine to answer.

It occurred to me one day that there were more grandchildren in the world

than mine, and that perhaps some of them would like to have the advantage of my advice. When thinking over a plan to reach so many, the idea came into my head in a moment that perhaps you could print my letters in your MAGAZINE, and then I knew they would be read by thousands of the little people. I might say some things that you have published before, but this would not be a serious objection, for we are apt to forget unless truths are kept before us, and frequent reviews are of advantage in fastening facts on the mind.

In sending some nice Petunia seeds to one of my nephews I wrote that they were fine as dust, and needed to be sown carefully in a light soil. I am quite sure, from



MAPLE.



CHESTNUT.

the response, that he did not realize that there was much difference in soils, for I was assured that he would put them in the dirt all right.

In the autumn, when the chestnuts were ripe, and after a little frost so that they would drop from the burrs, and thus save climbing or thrashing the trees, the boys coaxed me to take them chestnutting, and when we were about to start informed me of the best section for finding the nuts. I suggested another direction, but to this they dissented, declaring that we could

not find a Chestnut tree in any of the fields that way; but we could get Beach-nuts, and the boys were right.

There are different kinds of soils, and they produce different trees. A rather light soil, with a good deal of sand, is favorable for the Chestnut trees, and also Oaks; this is nice for Peach trees, also. Pine trees grow on soils that are still more sandy, but Beach trees and Maples and Hickories grow on soils that are called heavier, that is, having some clay, and this kind of soil the farmer likes for wheat. Where the ground is sour and wet, and usually of a blackish color, the Elm trees grow, and of course all the



ELM.

children know of the Bullrushes and Water Lilies, and other water-loving plants that are found where the ground is covered with water the whole or a part of the year. The boys all knew where the chestnuts grew;

they had learned this by experience, but they did not then know why.

I do not wish to have it understood that trees will only grow on the soil that is most natural to them, for the Creator made trees and men so that they become acclimated, that is, get used to different soils and climates. If it were not so we would be deprived of many trees and shrubs that we now have on our lawns and in our gardens, and people would have to stay in a climate similar to that in which they were born and spent their boyhood. As it is, people from the temperate climate of England emigrate to Minnesota, Manitoba, and New Zealand and Australia and our Southern States, and after a season or two become quite like "natives." I once crossed the ocean with several gentlemen from South America, and while the passengers were enjoying the cool sea breeze, these Southerners considered it a great privilege to get down among the furnace fires, but if they remained north a season or two, the hot furnace rooms of a steamer would have no attractions.

Some of my young readers may say what is the use of knowing about different kinds of soils, for I cannot trade off my

little garden for another, no matter what it is. Very true, but we will get some good out of this knowledge before we are through with the subject.

A few years ago one of my neighbors, who is very fond of Radishes, was complaining that he could not grow them good, as they always came hard and



PINE.



BEECH.

worm-eaten. I asked to see where he grew them, and found it damp, heavy and cold, for a soil that contains too much moisture will always be cold. I suggested a load of dry light earth from the Chestnut wood. This was done, and the result was a crop of early, tender, smooth radishes, as I well know, for he was so thankful for the suggestion that he kept my table pretty well supplied for several weeks.

We were quite successful in our nutting expedition, not only securing a quantity of the fruit but learning a good deal about the soils the tree likes, its habit and something about the growth of the fruit and the burrs, some of which we brought home with the nuts attached, just as they



DOUBLE TULIP.



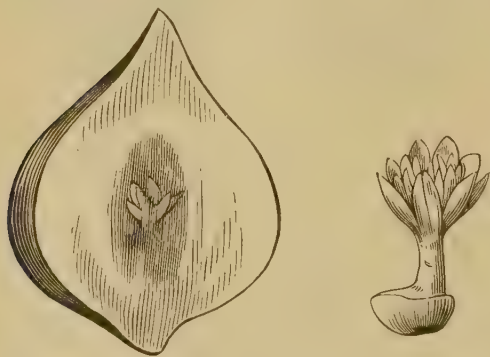
BULB AND PLANT.

were upon the tree. We sometimes make drawings of them, leaves, nuts, etc., after our excursions, and the little discussion about trees adapted to certain soils caused



us to notice their different forms and make sketches, a few of which I will forward.

We made our usual Tulip bed in the autumn, arranged in three colors, the center being double red. As we were planting, one of the bulbs was rejected because it was bruised, so I cut it open to show the children the formation of the flower, which often can be seen, and which I thought would be interesting and instructive. I was surprised to find so full a development of the double flower, which I took out with a knife so that all could see and handle it. I send a draw-



TULIP FLOWER FOUND IN BULB.

ing just of the size, so that all may see how perfect it was. Is not this wonderful, that nature not only stores up food one summer for the next summer's flower and plant, but actually makes a perfect flower and stores it away for the winter inside the fleshy bulb, where it will remain safe from winter storms and frosts, ready to delight us with its beauty at the first opportunity in the early spring.

Now, Mr. Editor, I only designed to ask you to publish a few letters to the children on gardening, but you see I have talked away, as old folks are apt to do.—  
GRANDFATHER GRAY.

#### A BOUQUET OF GRASSES.

MR. VICK:—You will perhaps recollect you sent us last spring some flower seeds, and seeds of ornamental grasses. There were not many, because we had only a little bed for our garden, and because we had not much money—only a little sister and I had saved just for the purpose. It was good that we did not send for more, for our garden was full, for some of the plants grew so large and wanted so much

room. Then we didn't know just how large some of them would be. Our garden was thirteen feet long and a little more than three feet wide, so we arranged it into spaces by putting a stake in the ground every two feet, so that we could have six kinds of flowers in six little beds.

First we put the Ricinus in one end, just one row across the bed, then Petunias two feet, next Portulaca, Phlox, Candytuft, Mignonette, and Pansy. We made four little drills across the bed like ruling paper, only for a ruler we had a board, and instead of a pencil a stick, just making a little crease. Grandfather taught us how to do this, and he gave us for a present last Christmas your MAGAZINE for this year, because we took care of our flowers, and I guess he will for next year, because he says our garden is the best we ever had.

In these drills we put the seeds, scattered along. After two weeks plants began to come up, but it was more than that before all came up, and then they were too thick, so we had to pull up a great many, and gave some to the boys in the next yard.

Those Ricinus were so large we had to take most of them up. I took one and put it at the other end of the bed, only leaving one where I sowed the seed, so you see we had one at each end of our bed, and that was enough, for they grew taller than my head, and if I had saved all my plants they would have wanted all the room, and our little flowers wouldn't have had any chance at all.

I forgot to say that we made a row the whole length of the bed, right in front, for a border of grasses.

Everything grew, and was splendid. Wasn't it grand of a morning, when the sun was shining right upon the flowers. Only, I think, I didn't have room enough for our plants, for we didn't like to give so many away. A man who takes care of a greenhouse on the next street said we had some of the prettiest flowers in the place, but we had twice too many plants, but I think we didn't have half enough garden.

We cut the grass when it had pretty heads, and one Saturday we went into the fields and gathered a good many pretty, wild grasses, for sister said we would make up bouquets and baskets for Christ-



mas. She always gathers autumn leaves and Ferns.

After we had made a few bouquets, sister said, "We will send Mr. VICK one; perhaps he would like it as a Christmas present." Then I found a box, and we

put one in carefully, so that it would not get crushed, and put it in the postoffice. I hope they will take care of it.—WILLIE.

Our bouquet came safely to hand, and is very handsome, and a very nice Christmas present from our little friend. Our engraving shows very well how nice it is made and how good it looks.



**SPIRÆA PRUNIFOLIA.**

One of the prettiest little flowering shrubs in the world, I think, is the double-flowering *Spiræa*, called *prunifolia*, which means plum-leaved, because the leaves look very much like those of the Plum tree. The flowers are pure white, as double as little Roses, being not more than half an inch in diameter, and often



covering the entire branch, forming a perfect, natural wreath. The plants I have never grow more than about four feet in height, and while flowering best with the June-flowering shrubs, bear some flowers nearly all the summer. I find I can make new plants by dividing at the roots. Our children are delighted with the plant, as it furnishes plenty of amusement in making wreaths for the head, and for other purposes, the branches being so slender and wiry that they can be bent into any form desired. Cutting does not injure the plant in the least.—M.

**CALANDRINIA.**

MR. VICK:—I suppose all your young readers know about that troublesome weed, Purslane, or Pusley, as it is called.



CALANDRINIA PLANT.

It has caused me a good many aching backs and some sore fingers. I do not think very many know that there is a

flowering Purslane, or rather, a plant, belonging to the same genus, and several varieties bearing most beautiful flowers.



CALANDRINIA FLOWER.

They are called Calandrinias. I had three varieties last season, lilac, purple, and white. The flowers are succulent and transparent, and the leaves thick and fleshy, like the Purslane. Try them next season.—TRURO.

**SALPIGLOSSIS.**

No bed of flowers is more interesting, I think, than the *Salpiglossis*, because there is such an endless variety of colors. I had a bed last summer in which it was



hardly possible to find two plants that had flowers alike. There were yellow, brown, bronze, red and purple of every shade, and all striped, or veined.—W.



**CHARLIE'S FLOWER GARDEN.**

"Do, Charlie, be still a little while. You have been so noisy this morning that my head aches badly. Put away your ball and marbles and find a book to read." So said Mrs. Bennett, Charlie's mother.

"Pshaw! mother. You want me to read all the time, I believe. I think you'd better come out in the yard and have a game of ball with me, instead of sitting at that sewing so long."

"I agree with you, Charlie," said his father, who had entered in time to hear his remark. "No doubt, Anna, you would have fewer head-aches if you would take more exercise in the open air. I'm anxious to see more color in your cheeks. Come, now," taking her work from her hands and tossing it into the work-basket, "get your hat and take a walk with Charlie and me this pretty morning. It is too pleasant to stay in the house."

His wife smiled a rather dubious smile, but rose to get her hat, while Charlie ran to put away the ball and marbles, and get his hat also.

The sun was shining brightly, and all nature seemed to have on holiday attire, and our friends returned home much refreshed by their walk, although Mrs. Bennett said she was a little tired.

"You'll soon get over that, Anna," said her husband cheerfully, and you will feel better all the morning from your little walk. But I'm going to leave you now, and I want Charlie, too, for a little time. So you can rest in quiet."

Charlie, rosy and laughing, bounded towards him, and the two passed out in the sunshine, while Mrs. Bennett drew her work-basket to her and resumed her sewing. As Mr. B. had said, her sense of fatigue soon left her and she found herself humming a lively air she had loved to sing when a little girl at her mother's side.

About half an hour passed thus, and then voices were heard approaching. Mrs. B. smiled as she listened to Charlie's clear voice and merry laugh. She wondered he did not come in, but was too intent on her embroidery to go to the door to see what he was doing, so sat still until she was called by both husband and son to come to the front door.

"Come, mother," said Charlie as she appeared, "come and see what father has bought me," and triumphantly he held up to view a small spade, hoe and rake.

"I thought," said Mr. Bennett, "that I would get our boy something to amuse himself with out of doors. What do you think of these?"

"They are very nice," said his wife, "but where are you going to set him to work?"

"That's what we wanted to ask you about," rejoined her husband. "This yard, with a little preparation, would produce flowers very well, I think; and Charlie and I, with a little direction from you, and perhaps a little assistance, intend to have a flower garden. What do you think of it?"

Mrs. Bennett glanced ruefully at the well-swept yard, and answered in a rather doubtful tone, "If you can manage it, it will be very well. But do you think you know how?"

"Oh, yes! I've had some experience with flowers in my early life, and our little man here"—glancing at Charlie, who was spading with all his might—"is going to be very industrious, and we'll make this dull yard look bright and pretty, won't we, Charlie?"

"That we will," replied he. "But what shall we do first, father?"

"Get the wheelbarrow," said Mr. Bennett, "and we'll prepare our ground for seeds and bulbs."

Mrs. Bennett then returned to her sewing, while Charlie and his father worked with a will, bringing load after load from the barn yard and fence corners. Then Charlie was sent to a blacksmith's to get a load of the sweepings of the floor of the shop. Then the fertilizers of all kinds were spread over the space to be spaded, and thoroughly spaded in. This consumed a good part of the day.

The next morning Mr. Bennett said to his wife after breakfast—"Come, Anna, and help us lay off our little flower-garden. You'll have to show us how to shape the beds. I have no taste in such matters."

So all three repaired to the front yard, which had been raked and looked very nice. On seeing how well the ground was prepared Mrs. Bennett became much interested in their project, and planned and assisted in forming the beds with as much zest as Charlie himself. Time sped away, and they were all astonished when the bell rang for dinner.

Mrs. Bennett, though fond of flowers, had never cultivated them, and so it was



a work of time to make selection from a catalogue, but at last the seeds and bulbs were ordered, and in a short time thereafter arrived.

As Mr. Bennett was compelled to be absent on business, Charlie and his mother, too impatient to wait for his return, planted the seeds and bulbs with great care in the nicely prepared beds. Around some of the beds they placed a border of violets, and others they edged with plants of the May pink. These plants were obtained from a friend, who kindly supplied what they needed of them.

"Now we must have a hedge of Chrysanthemums, Charlie," said his mother. "I love them so; and your Aunt Mary has promised me as many as I wish, of different kinds; so take the basket and go for them, for it is cloudy and a good time to transplant them. I think we will have rain this afternoon." Charlie trudged away whistling a lively air, while Mrs. Bennett took a seat on the piazza to rest and survey the result of their morning's work.

The Chrysanthemums were soon planted, and Mr. Bennett was pleased and surprised on his return to see how much had been done.

"Now, Charlie," said he, "you can manage to keep our little flower-yard free from weeds, can you not?"

"Yes, sir, I think I can," replied the boy.

The seeds came up well, and the plants grew off finely, but Charlie was afraid to work close to the small plants, so that before she knew it, almost, Mrs. Bennett found that she could handle a light hoe quite skillfully and took no little pleasure in her new work. The head-aches, too, seemed to have forgotten to visit her and her cheeks became quite rosy and plump, so that her husband paid her many compliments on her appearance, and then took all the credit himself for the improvement.

Charlie, too, was strengthened in limb and muscle and grew amazingly, while the flowers and plants grew so luxuriously that the passers were fain to linger and gaze at their beauty, and inhale their delightful fragrance.

Many an invalid, too, was cheered by a bouquet of their fragrant blossoms, and thus much good resulted from Charlie's Flower Garden.—SIDNEY EMMETT.

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